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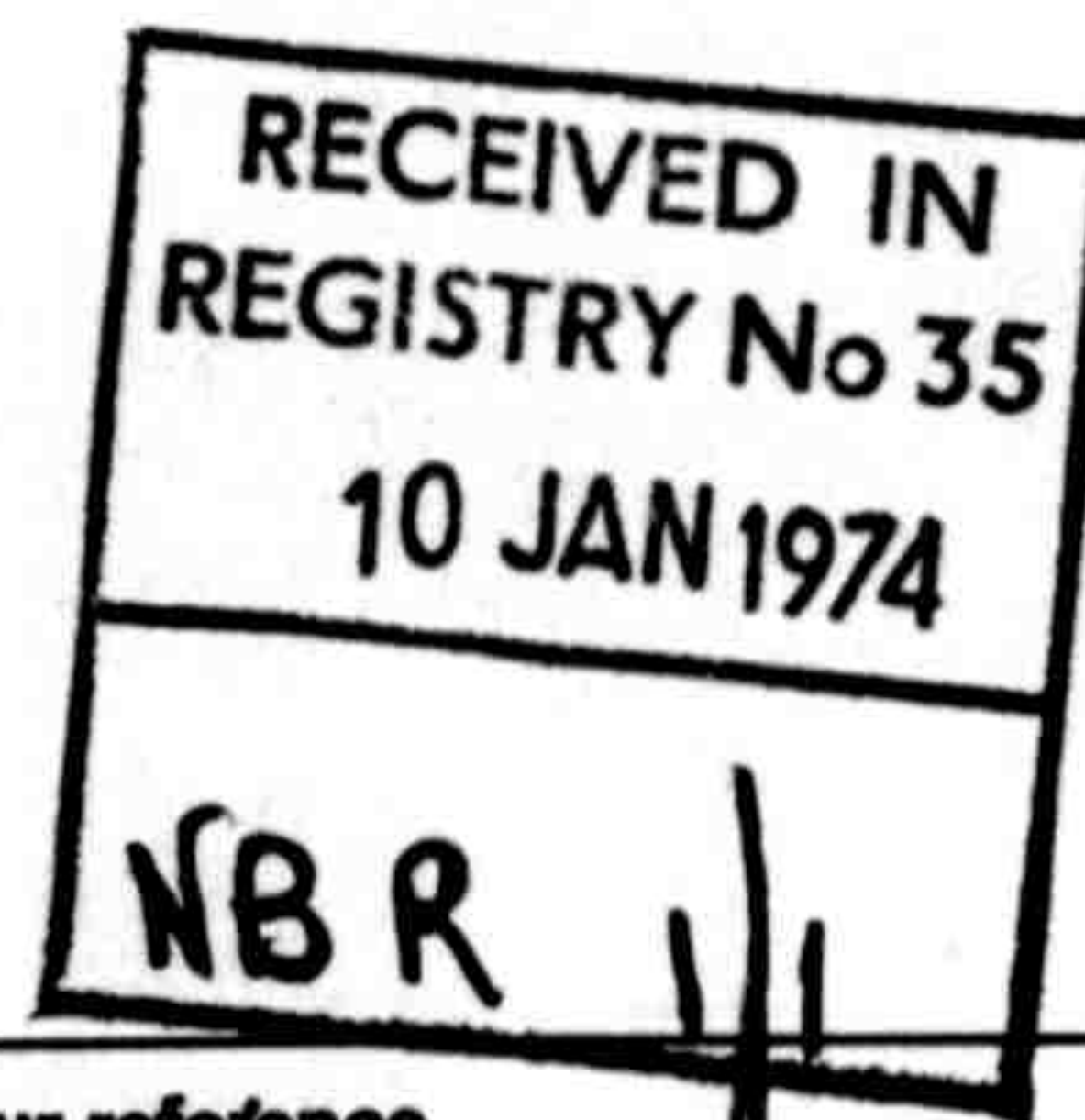
1974

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Royal Swedish Embassy
British Interests Section
Baghdad



G S Burton Esq.,
Middle East Department,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,
London.

Your reference

Our reference 1/1

Date 5th January, 1973.

Dear Graham

*Copy with encl to
Mr Rumball - Res D.
4889/1*

I am enclosing the calender of events for 1973. I
hope this will be useful to you and Research Department in
compiling the Annual Review.

Yours ever

la

I. McCluney

pa

ENCS.

DIARY OF EVENTS - 1973

JANUARY

- 3 Technical and cultural agreements signed with Egypt.
6. Amnesty granted to overseas Assyrians involved in "events of 1933".
8. IBRD loan of US \$40m announced to finance irrigation of lower Khalis area.
- 9 - 11 Foreign Minister Abdul Baqi visits Syria to settle oil pipeline royalties.
- 11 Iranian helicopter landed and detained near Mandali.
- 11 Dr. Fakhri Qaddouri discussed re-opening of Tripoli Terminal in Beirut. Agreement announced 18/1.
- 24 Syrian Deputy Premier and Min. of Agriculture, Mohammed Haidar visits Baghdad.
- 24 Foreign Minister, Abdul Baqi visits Cairo for Arab Collective Defence Council meeting.
- 25 Somali, Minister of Education, Abdul Razzak Mahmoud Abdul Bakr visits Baghdad.
- 30 Duroc Danner (CFP) negotiates with Iraq on IPC settlement.
- During January.* Brazilian, Spanish and Ceylonese oil delegations visit Baghdad for talks.

FEBRUARY

- 5 INOC signs long term contract with CFP for oil supplies to 1982.
- 10 Arab dentists conference held in Baghdad.
- 11 Czech Foreign Minister visits Baghdad.
- 13 Abba Eban speaks about 10 Jews detained in Iraq.
14. Pakistan finds arms in premises of Iraqi Embassy in Islamabad and withdraws her Ambassador in Baghdad.
- 17 - 24 Vice President Kang Ryang of Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea visits Baghdad.
- 17 - 22 Palestinian Delegation led by Sd Ahmed Jibrael, Secretary General PFCP conduct political talks with ABSP.
- 22 Iraq denounces shooting of Libyan plan by Israel.
- 26 Kuwait Foreign Minister Shiekh Sabah Ahmed al Jaber visits Baghdad.
- 28 Agreement signed between IPC Group and Iraq Government settling all outstanding claims, including nationalisation of IPC in Iraq, and compensation for the expropriation of the N. Rumaila field under Law 80.

MARCH

- 1 IPC Agreement ratified by RCC and gazetted. Presidential speech and demonstrations in the streets during the night 28 Feb/March.

MARCH (CONTD.)

- 6 Loading facilities at Tripoli (Lebanon) opened to Iraqi oil and first shipment leaves 9 March.
- 12 Saadoun Ghaidan, Minister of Interior carried a message to Numeiry in Khartoum from President Bakr about the arrested Black September guerillas held in Khartoum. He returned via Beirut 14 March and saw Arafat there.
- 13 Iraq oil Minister, Hammadi calls on President of Syria in Damascus.
- 13 - 15 Robert Gulbenkian visited Baghdad and called on President Bakr.
- 15 Series of economic talks between Iraqi and Egyptian officials.
- 15 - 18 Sd Ahmed al-Suwaidi - UAE Foreign Minister visits Baghdad for talks with Foreign Minister Abdul Baqi and President Bakr.
- 16 Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh - Foreign Minister Provisional Revolutionary Governor of South Vietnam visits Iraq, coming from Moscow.
- 18 Iraq disputes with Lebanon over ownership of Tripoli terminal and bans import of Lebanese goods.
- 20 Border incident with Kuwait. Iraqi troops take strengthened Kuwaiti police at Samitah. Two Iraqis and two Kuwaitis killed.
- 21 - 24 Saddam Hussein visits Moscow with Foreign Minister Abdul Baqi. Party met by Kosygin and Gromyko at the airport.
- 21 Sd Abdul Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister of Syria arrives to discuss Kuwait dispute, and leaves for Kuwait the same day.
- 22 - 24 RCC lift ban on travel abroad for medical treatment and tourism. Authority delegated to provinces for issue of passports for all countries except USA, England and West Germany.
- 22 - 28 Dr. Murad Ghali representing President Sadat arrives in Baghdad to mediate on Kuwait border problem.
- 22 - 28 Kamal Jumblatt - Chairman, Progressive Socialist Party in Lebanon - visits Iraq with Vice Chairman Abbas Khalaf.
- 23 Sd Mahmoud Riad, Secretary General of the Arab League visits Baghdad to mediate, and flies on to Kuwait.
- 27 - 29 Yasser Arafat visits Baghdad for talks with ABSP National Leadership, and goes to Kuwait.
- 28 Dr. Mohd. al Zayyat - Foreign Minister of Egypt arrives in Baghdad on a 3 day official visit.

APRIL

- 1 Austerity measures of May 1972 lifted.
- 1 Mosul Petroleum Company nationalised as per February 28 agreement.
- 2 Iraq withdraws from Samitah Police Post (Kuwait border)
- 4 - 7 Yasser Arafat visits Baghdad
- 4 - 11 Admiral Sergei Ghorshkov C In C Soviet Naval Forces visits Iraq, including Umm Qasr port.
- 5 Plans for new deep water oil terminal at Khoral Khafka announced following studies by ERAP.
- 6 - 8 Foreign Minister Abdul Baqi flies to Kuwait to discuss the border.
- 7 26th Anniversary of foundation of Ba'ath Party.
- 7 Iraq grants US \$50m loan to India in form of crude oil and India agrees to import 30m tons crude oil over a ten year period, 1977-1987, Cultural and Economic agreements also signed.
- 11 - 25 Minister of the Interior Saadoun Ghaidan visits Moscow.
- 12 Demonstration march in Baghdad against Israeli operations in Lebanon. Jewish family of five rumoured murdered in Baghdad.
- 18 Telex link Basrah/Kuwait opened.
- 19 - 20 Rumanian Foreign Minister Macovescu visits Iraq.
- 20 - 24 Abdul Sattar al Jawari goes to Pakistan.
- 26 President Francois Tombalbaye of Chad visits Iraq.
- 25 - 30 Foreign Minister Abdul Baqi visits Switzerland privately for talks with Iranian team
- 30 Egypt's War Minister Lt Gen Ahmed Ismail visits Baghdad for a meeting with Gen Shihab.

MAY

- 7 Troops exercise in Basrah area. Practice air raid warnings.
- 11 RCC member Abdul Khaleq As-Sammara'ie returns from mediation visit to Lebanon.
- 13 - 17 Turkish Minister of Interior, Mukadder Oztekin visits Iraq.
- 17 US \$40million IBRD loan agreed for grain silos.
- 20 Price of wheat internally fixed at ID 31.00 to ID 44.00 per ton (i.e. £40 - £60) - a dinar higher than last year) to encourage the wheat growers.
- 22 Sawran Singh - Indian Foreign Minister visits Iraq.
- 25 Iraq stops pumping oil for one hour on 25th anniversary of formation of the State of Israel.
- 31 Foreign Minister Abdul Baqi visits Czechoslovakia.

/JUNE

JUNE

- 10 Iraq claims to gain US \$16m from Geneva Agreement to compensate oil producers for fall in value of US \$.
- 12 Iraq gives ID 6.5m loan to Syria to increase the capacity of the pipelines to Mediterranean ports.
- 13 Dr Izzat Mustapha RCC Member and Minister of Health went on a two week visit to Peking with 6 man team to discuss matters of hygiene and medicine.
- 13 Mr Sarin Chak, Foreign Minister of National Union Front of Cambodia visits Baghdad.
- 18 Flour prices reduced by government decree. Ministry of Finance to subsidise State Grain Company.
- 24 President Bakr visits Bulgaria with strong economic team.
- 27 President Bakr visits Poland.
- 30 President Bakr returns from Poland. A plot brewing for his return is foiled by Baath civilian Militia but General Shihab is assassinated and Minister of Interior Sa'adoun Ghaidan wounded. Nahim Kazzar, Director General of Security is arrested.

JULY

- 2 RCC appoints investigating committee and a court under Chairmanship of Izzat al Douri, (Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform) to deal with Nadhim Kazzar and his accomplices.
- 3 Funeral of General Shihab.
- 9 A total of 36 tried and executed in two batches, including Nadhim Kazzar, and Mohd. Fadhi (PRB). Khaliq as Sammara'ie (RCC member) has his death sentence commuted to life imprisonment by President Bakr.
- 14 Constitution amended to allow Council of Ministers more power and access to the President who can appoint and discuss them all without reference to RCC.
- 18 Saddam Hussien gives press conference to Western correspondents, telling of his wish to obtain wider consensus in government.
- 18 ABSP and Communists agree to form a National Front. Law promulgated to create a National Assembly. Kurdish Democratic Party do not take part.

AUGUST

- 10 Iraqi airliner forced to land in Israel but later released.
- 20 & 24 Shiekh Jabir al Ahmed Al Sabah - Crown Prince and P.M. of Kuwait visits Iraq for talks.
- 27 National Action Charter published.
- 31 Foreign Minister Abdul Baqi attends non-aligned Conference in Nigeria.

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SEPTEMBER

- 1 National Front issue invitation to KDP to meet them.
- 8 Several unexplained murders have been committed in Baghdad. Ministry of Interior offer ID 10,000 for information leading to the arrest of those responsible.
- 20 Foreign Minister Abdul Baqi attends 28th session of UN General Assembly.
- 24 Secretariat of National Front announced.
- 28 24 hour curfew imposed in Baghdad, and house to house searches carried out.

OCTOBER

- 1 Baghdad Fair opened by Hikmat al Azzawi, Minister of Economy.
- 6 War in Sinai and Golan Heights. Iraqi planes operate from Egypt.
- 7 Iraq nationalises US shareholding in BPC. Law 70 of 1973.
- 7 Iraq declares its willingness to re-open diplomatic relations with Iran.
- 8 Eight Regional conference ABSP - discusses decisions of 7 October, especially the renewal of relations with Iran.
- 9 Iraqi troops and planes enter the battle in Syria.
- 9 Ministry Oil form committees to define INOC/BPC relationship following partial nationalisation.
- 19 Series of public meetings on Kurdish autonomy addressed by Saddam Hussein.
- 22 Dutch Shell portion of BPC nationalised. Law 90 of 1973.
- 22 Iraq announces it is not party to M.E. ceasefire.

NOVEMBER

- 2 RCC give US \$6.8m to Baath Party Office for Palestine Armed struggle.
- 4 - 5 President Bonmedienne of Algeria visits Iraq briefly.
- 5 Dr. Saadoun Hammadi attended meetings of Arab Oil Ministers in Kuwait.
- 4 - 8 Palestinian leaders, Naim Hawatma and Yassir Arafat visit Baghdad for talks with ABSP.
- 9 ABSP rejects all Security Council resolutions on ME which call for the Arabs to surrender.
- 10 - 14 Shell/NEDC team visit Baghdad for talks on compensation for nationalisation.
- 9 - 11 Military parades as troops return from Syrian Front.
- 12 Mohd. Saleh Muti'i Foreign Minister of Yemen (PDRY), visits Baghdad.
- 15 Iraq - Indian Oil talks in Baghdad.
- 21 Prime Minister of Lebanon Takkei Al-Din Al-Sulh visits for two days and has talks with Saddam Hussein.
- 21 Iraq/Soviet technical co-operation agreement signed for, 1974.

NOVEMBER (Contd.)

- 23 - 2 Dec. Japanese delegation led by Professor Kanu of the Diet have talks in Baghdad - oil is one subject.
- 27 - 30 Nov. Comrade Boris Ponomarev, Candidate Member of Soviet Politburo visited Iraq for talks with President Bakr, Saddam Hussein and Foreign Minister Abdul Baqi. A co-operation plan for 1974 was signed by the Baath Party and the Soviet Communist Party.

DECEMBER

- 3 - 6 Pakistan Minister of Fuel and Energy visits Baghdad.
- 10 Yassir Arafat visits Baghdad for talks with Shibly al Aysami, Asst. Secretary General ABSP.
- 9 - 12 Foreign Minister Abdul Baqi visits Yugoslavia and meets President Tito and Foreign Minister Milos Minic.
- 1 - 10 Arab Civil Aviation Conference - Baghdad.
- 10 Tanzanian Minister of Trade and Industry visits Baghdad.
- 13 State of Emergency lifted (Imposed 18th October).
- 18 M. Charbonnel, French Minister of Industry and Scientific Development visits Iraq for talks on industry and oil.
- 20 Vice President Saddam Hussein makes definitive speech on oil policy, denouncing higher prices and production cuts, as harmful to arab cause. He advocates nationalisation of oil companies.
- 20 Portugese Gulbenkian Foundation share of Basrah Petroleum Company nationalised.
- 27 Japanese Deputy Premeir Takeo Miki visits Baghdad.

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British Embassy,
Baghdad.

3rd June 1974



G.S. Burton Esq.,
Middle East Department,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,
London SW1.

Mr Graham

ANNUAL REVIEWS - IRAQ

Now that we have opened our doors in Baghdad to political papers, I wonder if you could arrange for us to have copies of the print on Iraq since December 1971.

2. In particular, I have never seen the Annual Reviews so nobly prepared by Research Department during the break.

Yours ever

la.

I. McCluney

Miss P. G. G. G.

There are only 4 pieces of print, I think since Dec 71. In balloon books collected & deposited and the annual reviews for 71, 72 & 73. Please assemble

RB 10/6

*Mr Burton,
Please find the requested despatches attached p. 19/6.*

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FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

DIPLOMATIC REPORT No. 168/74

RR 6/5

General Distribution

IRAQ

7 February, 1974

IRAQ: ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 1973

SUMMARY

Another unsettled year for Iraq, but the ending of the dispute with Iraq Petroleum (IPC) has greatly improved the economic outlook. (Paragraphs 1-2.)

2. More trouble on the Kuwait border in March; talks in August inconclusive. (Paragraph 3.)

3. An abortive *coup* from within the Ba'ath Party in June. Subsequent apparent strengthening of the President's powers, but Saddam Hussein's authority undiminished. Attempts by the régime to improve its image at home and abroad. Agreement by the Ba'ath and the Communists to form a National Front, but the Kurds remain disaffected. (Paragraphs 4-5.)

4. The Arab-Israel war. Iraq sends troops to the Syrian front; withdraws them after rejecting the ceasefire; boycotts the Algiers Summit. Remaining US and Netherlands oil interests nationalised, but no cutback in Iraq's oil exports. (Paragraphs 6-7.)

5. Although relations with the Soviet Union remain close, the IPC settlement has given Iraq more room for manoeuvre and the Soviet Union is not dictating her policies. (Paragraph 8.)

6. Relations with the UK have been helped by the settlement, which has increased commercial opportunities as well as opening the way for an accelerated increase in Iraqi oil production. Differences over Gulf policy remain, and indications that Iraq is considering a resumption of diplomatic relations have so far proved inconclusive. (Paragraph 9.)

7. Conclusions. A better than average year despite continued instability. Will Iraq grasp her new opportunities? (Paragraph 10.)

(Confidential)

Sir,

Foreign and Commonwealth Office,

7 February, 1974.

Introduction

For Iraq 1973 was another unsettled year, partly because of the effects of the Arab-Israel war but also because of internal instability and continued friction with her neighbours. The long-standing dispute with the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) which culminated in nationalisation in 1972 was settled in February, and this led to a rapid improvement in the economic climate. Hopes that Iraqi affairs generally might subsequently return to a more even keel were not fulfilled

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however. Internally, the régime's confidence was shaken by an attempted *coup* from within the Ba'ath Party's own ranks in June and the Kurdish situation remained tense. Externally, trouble flared up again over the Kuwait border in March and relations with Iran remained strained despite agreement to resume diplomatic relations in October. The Middle East war caused Iraq to switch her attention temporarily from the Gulf to the Syrian front, but any popularity she may have gained with Arab States by sending troops to fight there was dissipated by her opposition to the ceasefire and the subsequent peace moves, and by her refusal to attend the Arab Summit in Algiers. Despite indications in the second half of the year that the régime wished to conciliate opinion at home and abroad, it thus remains isolated to a large degree.

The IPC settlement

2. The year began well with the ending of the oil dispute which had cast such a shadow over 1972. The terms of the settlement precluded any cash compensation to the companies but included the provision of 15 million tons of free oil (equivalent to about 70 per cent of what the IPC might have expected to get if their assets had been the subject of a participation agreement). In addition the IPC gained access to 10 million tons per annum of the 13 million tons being taken by the Compagnie Française des Pétroles at prenationalisation prices under a 10-year contract signed in January. The companies for their part undertook to pay £141 million to meet Iraq's accumulated claims against them, ceded their rights to the Mosul concession, and agreed to expand production by the Basrah Petroleum Company to 80 million tons per annum by 1976. This settlement greatly improved Iraq's financial outlook, and some major new development projects have since been announced. They include a pipeline from Kirkuk to the Mediterranean through Turkey; expansion of the existing pipeline through Syria; a deep water terminal in the Gulf; and a pipeline from the southern fields to the northern pipeline at Haditha, which would enable exports to be switched to the Gulf or the Mediterranean according to circumstances.

Kuwait border incident

3. In March trouble flared up again on the Kuwait border when Iraqi troops took over the Kuwaiti police post at al Samita, which was already surrounded by Iraqi gun emplacements for the defence of Umm Qasr. A military build-up by both sides led to fears of a serious clash, but this was avoided and the Iraqis allowed Kuwait to reoccupy the site in May after destroying the post itself. An initiative by the Ba'ath led to talks being held in Baghdad in August. The Kuwaitis are reported to have offered a lease on the island of Warbah and a strip of Kuwaiti coastline in return for final demarcation of the frontier, but the Iraqis, who need Bubiyan as well as Warbah if they are to control the sea approaches to Umm Qasr, rejected the offer as inadequate and the Kuwaiti delegation returned empty-handed. It was announced that Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi Vice-President, would pay a return visit to Kuwait for further talks, but this meeting has not yet taken place.

The June plot

4. Dissension within the Ba'ath Party came into the open in the summer with the attempted *coup* led by the Director-General for Security, Nadhim Kazzar. The plot, which involved waylaying President Bakr at the airport on his return from a trip abroad, failed partly because his aircraft was late arriving. Before they were caught the conspirators killed the Minister of Defence, General Shihab,

and wounded the Minister of Interior, General Ghaidan, who later came to London for treatment. More than 30 executions were subsequently carried out, although the death sentence on Abdul Khaleq al Sammarra'i, a leading member of the régime, was commuted to life imprisonment. The background to the plot is somewhat obscure, but it reflects continued rivalry between the civilian and military wings of the Ba'ath and the desire of some of the former to see Iraq adopting more radical policies, including more positive support for the Palestinian cause, a harder line against the Kurds and a more doctrinaire form of Socialism.

Constitutional changes

The National Front

5. After the plot the régime introduced a number of amendments to the Constitution. These were announced with customary flourish, but apart from an apparent strengthening of the powers of the President (who also added the office of Minister of Defence to those of Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces which he already held) were not really significant. Although they could be interpreted as signalling a reduction in the influence of the party machine, the balance seems in fact to have altered little if at all and, despite much rumour to the contrary, there is no real evidence of a decline in the authority of Saddam Hussein. At the same time the régime made an attempt to improve its image at home and abroad. Saddam Hussein gave a news conference at which he discussed Iraq's foreign relations in unusually reasonable tones, and a new dialogue was held with the Kurds and the Communists on forming a National Front. This resulted in agreement with the Communist Party, which thereby gained formal recognition and some relaxation of the restrictions on its activities. But the levers of power remain with the Ba'ath, and they will be keeping a close watch on the Communists. The Kurds, despite promptings from Moscow, refused to join the front, and can be expected to resist joining it as long as the March 1970 agreement between them and the Ba'ath remains unimplemented. In the autumn the Ba'ath reverted to the tactic of undermining the position of Barzani's Kurdish Democratic Party by encouraging other Kurdish groups, including Communists. There were reports of skirmishes in the north and there must be a real danger of more widespread hostilities in March 1974, when the deadline for implementing the 1970 agreement is reached.

The Middle East war

6. When the Arab-Israel war broke out in October Iraq moved promptly to secure her eastern flank by inviting Iran to re-establish diplomatic relations, and after receiving a positive response sent at least two divisions to the Syrian front, where the one which saw most action was badly mauled. The Syrians, who must all along have regarded the presence of the Iraqi troops as a potential threat to their régime, were placed in an embarrassing position when Iraq rejected the UN call for a ceasefire, but after Syria had accepted it the troops were withdrawn. Iraq continued her opposition to Syrian and Egyptian policies by boycotting the Algiers Summit and ended the year as isolated as ever from the mainstream of Arab opinion, though her performance bought her increased credit with the Palestinians.

7. On oil too the Iraqis took an independent line. They nationalised US and Netherlands interests in the Basra Petroleum Company (and in December the 5 per cent share owned by the Portuguese—registered Partex) and called on other Arab oil producers to take similar action. They also called for a total embargo on exports to States which "insisted on supporting the Zionist enemy . . ."

But they refused to associate themselves with the OAPEC policy on global cuts, which they criticised publicly, on the grounds that friendly countries should not be hurt. Once war damage to the Baniyas terminal was repaired Iraq's oil exports were in fact resumed at the full rate, her main consideration being to maximise revenues after last year's losses.

Iraq-Soviet relations

8. Relations with the Soviet Union remain close, but the settlement of the IPC dispute and the enhanced economic prospects resulting from it have given Iraq more room for manoeuvre between East and West. Iraq's support for subversion in Baluchistan and elsewhere in the Gulf area, the Kuwait crisis, and the delivery of more advanced Soviet arms during the year, caused anxiety among her neighbours about Soviet as well as Iraqi intentions, but the evidence does not suggest that the Soviet Union is deliberately inciting Iraq to adventurist policies. Iraqi facilities were used to help the Soviet airlift during the Middle East war, but proof (if it were needed) that the Soviet Union does not dictate Iraqi policies came when Iraq rejected the ceasefire and was openly critical of the Soviet attitude towards a settlement.

Relations with the UK and the West

9. The IPC settlement was an important step towards normalising our relations with Iraq and it is encouraging to record amid the current energy crisis that Iraq is embarking on a major expansion of her oil industry. Although the role of the IPC partners in future development has yet to be clarified, the major part of Iraq's exports will no doubt continue to go to the West. Moreover, all the big new projects in the oil sector look like being carried out by Western (though not yet British) firms, and with the improvement of the financial situation commercial opportunities generally have improved; British exports to Iraq may have exceeded £30 million in 1973 and there should be scope for further expansion in 1974. In the political and diplomatic fields progress has been slower. The Iraqis probably meant it when they said in July that they would welcome better relations with the West, and it was encouraging that when they took action against US and Netherlands interests during the Middle East war they made it clear that they did not wish to harm European nations as a whole because of their even-handed attitude. But differences over Gulf policy remain and Iraq remains unwilling to make the first move towards a resumption of diplomatic relations with the UK.

Conclusions

10. 1973 was a better than average year but it remains to be seen whether in 1974 the Ba'ath will make full use of their new opportunities or whether they will be distracted by fresh troubles in Kurdistan, the Gulf, or elsewhere in the Middle East.

Enclosure

Calendar of events in 1973

January

- 3 Technical and cultural agreements signed with Egypt.
- 6 Amnesty granted to overseas Assyrians involved in "events of 1933".
- 8 IBRD loan of US \$40 million announced to finance irrigation of lower Khalis area.
- 9-11 Foreign Minister visits Syria to settle oil pipeline royalties.
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- 24 Foreign Minister visits Cairo for Arab Joint Defence Council meeting.
- Syrian Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Mohammed Haidar, visits Baghdad.

February

- 5 INOC signs long-term contract with CFP for oil supplies to 1982.
- 11 Czech Foreign Minister visits Baghdad.
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- 14 Pakistan finds arms in premises of Iraqi Embassy in Islamabad and withdraws her Ambassador from Baghdad.

February

- 17-22 Palestinian delegation led by Ahmed Jibrael, Secretary-General of PFLP, holds political talks with Ba'ath Party.
- 17-24 Vice-President Kang Ryang of Democratic People's Republic of Korea visits Baghdad.
- 26 Kuwait Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Ahmed al Jaber, visits Baghdad.
- 28 Agreement signed between IPC Group and Iraq Government settling all outstanding claims, including nationalisation of IPC in Iraq and compensation for the expropriation of the North Rumaila field under Law 80.

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- 6 Loading facilities at Tripoli (Lebanon) opened to Iraqi oil again. First shipment leaves 9 March.
- 12 Minister of Interior carries a message to President Numeiry from President Bakr about the arrested Black September guerillas held in Khartoum. Returns 14 March via Beirut, where he sees Arafat.
- 13 Oil Minister calls on President Assad in Damascus.
- 15-18 Ahmed al Suwaidi, UAE Foreign Minister, visits Baghdad.
- 16 Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam, visits Baghdad.
- 18 Dispute with Lebanon over ownership of Tripoli terminal. Iraq bans import of Lebanese goods.
- 20 Border incident with Kuwait. Iraqi troops take Kuwaiti police post at Al Samitah. Two Iraqis and two Kuwaitis killed.
- 21 Abdul Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister of Syria, arrives to discuss Kuwait dispute and leaves for Kuwait the same day.
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- Kamal Jumblatt, Chairman of Progressive Socialist Party in Lebanon, visits Iraq with Vice-Chairman Abbas Khalaf.
- 23 Mahmoud Riad, Secretary-General of the Arab League, visits Baghdad to mediate and flies on to Kuwait.
- 27-29 Yasir Arafat visits Baghdad for talks and goes to Kuwait.
- 28 Dr. Mohammed al Zayyat, Foreign Minister of Egypt, arrives in Baghdad on three-day official visit.

CONFIDENTIAL**April**

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- 4-7 Yasir Arafat visits Baghdad again.
- 4-11 Admiral Sergei Gorshkov, C-in-C. Soviet Naval Forces, visits Iraq, including Umm Qasr port.
- 5 Plans for new deep water oil terminal at Khor al Khafka announced following studies by ERAP.
- 6-8 Foreign Minister flies to Kuwait to discuss the border.
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- 25-30 Foreign Minister visits Switzerland privately for talks with Iranian team.
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- 18 Saddam Hussein gives conciliatory Press conference to Western correspondents. Ba'ath Party and Communists agree to form a National Front but Kurdish Democratic Party does not take part. Law promulgated to create a National Assembly.

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- 19 Series of public meetings on Kurdish autonomy addressed by Saddam Hussein.
- 22 Dutch Shell portion of BPC nationalised: Law 90 of 1973.
- Iraq announces she it not party to Middle East ceasefire.

November

- 2 RCC give US\$6.8 million to Ba'ath Party Office for Palestine armed struggle.
- 4-5 President Boumedienne of Algeria visits Iraq.
- 4-8 Palestinaian leaders, Naim Hawatma and Yasir Arafat, visit Baghdad for talks with Ba'ath Party.
- 5 Oil Minister attends meetings of Arab Oil Ministers in Kuwait.
- 9 Ba'ath Party rejects Security Council resolutions on Middle East.
- 9-11 Military parades as troops return from Syrian Front.
- 10-14 Shell-NEDC team visit Baghdad for talks on compensation for nationalisation.
- 12 Mohammed Saleh Muti'i, Foreign Minister of PDRY, visits Baghdad.
- 21 Visit of Prime Minister of Lebanon, Takkei al Din al Sulh.
- Iraq-Soviet technical co-operation agreement signed.
- 23 Nov.-2 Dec. Japanese delegation led by Professor Kanu of the Diet have talks in Baghdad; oil is one subject.
- 27-30 Boris Ponamarev, Candidate Member of Soviet Politburo, visits Iraq. Co-operation agreement between Ba'ath Party and CPSU signed.

December

- 1-10 Arab Civil Aviation Conference in Baghdad.
- 3-6 Pakistan Minister of Fuel and Energy visits Baghdad.
- 9-12 Foreign Minister visits Yugoslavia.
- 10 Yasir Arafat visits Baghdad.
- Tanzanian Minister of Trade and Industry visits Baghdad.
- 13 State of Emergency lifted (imposed 18 October).
- 18 M. Charbonnel, French Minister of Industry and Scientific Development, visits Iraq for talks on industry and oil.
- 20 Saddam Hussein makes definitive speech on oil policy, denouncing higher prices and production cuts as harmful to Arab cause and advocating nationalisation of oil companies.
- Portuguese Gulbenkian Foundation share of Basrah Petroleum Company nationalised.
- 27 Japanese Deputy Premier, Takeo Miki, visits Baghdad.

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ANNUAL REVIEWS: IRAQ

1 Please refer to your letter of 3 June. I enclose copies of four pieces of print which were issued on Iraq during the break in relations.

2 Dick Giddens has arranged for Research Department to send to him in Baghdad a number of papers which we consider will be of use to you. These are being sent separately.

G S Burton
Middle East Department

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Iraq: Annual Review For 1973. Iraq: Annual Review For 1973. 5 Jan. 1973. MS Middle East Online: Iraq, 1914-1974: Selected files from series AIR, CAB, CO, FCO, FO, PREM, T, WO, The National Archives, Kew, UK FCO 8/2306. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5107498355/GDSC?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-GDSC&xid=092b46d7&pg=1. Accessed 11 Apr. 2022.